

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 INRE-00 CCO-00 DRC-01 /159 W

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R 151434Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5234

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

USINT BAGHDAD POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13172

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS XF UR

SUBJECT: VISIT BY PLO DELEGATION TO MOSCOW

REF: BEIRUT 13079

1. APPEARS THAT 'ARAFAT'S PLANNED TRIP TO MOSCOW
IS OFF, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. PLO (WAFA) DAILY
BULLETIN ANNOUNCED NOV 14 THAT VISIT "WILL NOT TAKE
PLACE AT PRESENT TIME", ALTHOUGH IT ADDED THAT
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"SHOULD NEED ARISE, TOP-LEVEL PLO DEL WILL PROBABLY

VISIT USSR AFTER ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE" IN ALGIERS.

2. ABOVE DEVELOPMENT, IN OUR VIEW, STEMS IN PART FROM FACT THAT IRAQI GOVT--INTRANSIGENT ON SUBJECT OF FEDAYEEN ASSOCIATION WITH EFFORT TOWARD PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND HOPEFUL, SHOULD NEGOTIATION FAIL, OF PICKING UP PIECES OF DISORGANIZED FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT (BAGHDAD 592, BEIRUT 12826) HAS EVIDENTLY SUCCEEDED IN PREVENTING FORMATION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLO DEL. IRAQI NEGATIVISM, FEARED BY SOVS AS WELL AS 'ARAFAT (BEIRUT 13079), REINFORCES OTHER OPPOSITION TO FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION IN FORTHCOMING PEACE CONFERENCE (AND IMPLICIT ACQUIESCENCE IN SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL) AMONG PFLP, ALF AND FEDAYEEN RANK-AND-FILE (INCLUDING SOME PLO SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF WRITERS, STUDENTS, ETC.). THIS OPPOSITION REPORTEDLY CAUSED 'ARAFAT HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED TRIP TO MOSCOW FOR PURPOSE OF AGREEING PARTICIPATE IN TALKS.

3. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DECISION POSTPONE TRIP TO MOSCOW IS DESIRE BY ARAB GOVTS, LED BY ALGIERS, DECIDE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT NOV 26 ARAB SUMMIT WHERE PLO WILL BE PRESENT. WITH COVER OF CALL FROM ARAB SUMMIT, IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR 'ARAFAT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE AND WITHSTAND OPPOSITION, WHEREAS HIS APPEARING TO MAKE DECISION WITHOUT VISIBLE SUPPORT FROM ARAB GOVTS AND UNDER APPARENT SOV AUSPICES WOULD INCREASE HIS VULNERABILITY AND EVEN ANGER SOME ARAB GOVTS WHO FAVOR IDEA OF PLO PARTICIPATION BUT DO NOT LIKE IDEA OF IT SEEMING TO RESULT FROM SOV EFFORTS.

4. NEW SCENARIO, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, WILL BE FOR ARAB SUMMIT TO DECIDE OR RECOMMEND THAT PLO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE TALKS. THIS WOULD ALLOW 'ARAFAT AND OTHERS TO CLAIM THEY HAVE HAD PARTICIPATION IMPOSED ON THEM AS ALTERNATIVE TO PLO PARTICIPATION WOULD BE WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT BY ARAB GOVTS AND ASSUMPTION BY KING HUSSEIN OF ROLE OF REPRESENTING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AT PEACE TALKS. ASSUMING ARAB GOVTS RECOMMEND AND PLO AGREES AT ALGIERS TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE TALKS, 'ARAFAT WOULD PROBABLY

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FEEL ABLE PROCEED TO MOSCOW--WITH OR WITHOUT PFLP AND ALF PARTICIPATION AND GOI NEUTRALITY--TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVS PRIOR TO BEGINNING PEACE TALKS. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE 'ARAFAT DECISION POSTPONE MOSCOW TRIP INDICATES ANY CHANGE IN PLO (I.E., FATAH-SA'IQA) PREDISPOSITION PARTICIPATE IN PEACE TALKS. (BEIRUT 13009).
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, MOSLEMS, VISITS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT13172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731133/aaaaaxsu.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BEIRUT 13079
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY PLO DELEGATION TO MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF, UR, PLO, (ARAFAT, YASSER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005